

VZCZCXRO9670

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0281  
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
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RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000672

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFH01: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #31 07/29/2009 AS OF  
14:00 LOCAL (16:00 EDT)

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 664 AND OTHERS

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

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DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY  
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¶1. (U) As of 09:00 local (11:00 EDT), there was a roadblock by approximately 200 pro-Zelaya demonstrators in La Flecha in the Santa Barbara Department blocking the highway between San Pedro Sula and Copan. In Tegucigalpa, pro-Zelaya protestors met at the Pedagogical University and blocked the city's main artery, Fuerzas Armadas, from 10:30-13:50 local (12:30-15:50 EDT) before being disbanded by 100 local police. Meanwhile, Micheletti supporters planned to protest in Danli at 14:00 local (16:00 EDT) where there are still a significant number of Zelaya supporters gathered from the weekend.

¶2. (C) Tamar Maya Sharabi, an AmCit who resides and works for an NGO in Honduras, claims she was assaulted and had her camera taken by Honduran National Police in Tegucigalpa at 18:30 on July 26 while filming the violent clashes between police and youth at the soccer stadium. Sharabi claims she was stopped and then followed by a policeman who was asking for her camera. While hurrying away from him, she suddenly found herself surrounded by 15 policemen who proceeded to grab her, throw her on the ground, hit her with a baton twice, and pull her hair until she let go of her video camera. Post will prepare a full report SepTel.

¶3. (U) Post continues to receive mixed reporting on curfew implementation. The 24 hour curfew in the zone surrounding the Las Manos border crossing in the El Paraiso Department and parts of the Choluteca Department remains in place. There have been several reports that commercial trucks are being detained. It is suspected that this is not due to Zelaya supporters blocking traffic but because authorities have been unable to reach an agreement on how to enact curfew while still allowing for mobility. Despite the curfew, in the town of El Paraiso it appears that businesses are open and gas is being delivered. Apart from the Bay Islands where the curfew was rescinded Sunday, the curfew for the rest of the country today, July 29, is expected to be from 01:00-04:30 local (03:00-06:30 EDT). The Embassy Warden Message urges AmCits to consult television and radio announcements each night to

determine the correct curfew hours.

¶4. (U) The Vicente Caceres Central Institute in Tegucigalpa, one of Honduras' largest public schools has been taken over by parents enraged over the loss of school days due to the pro-Zelaya teacher strikes. They are calling assemblies to determine their next steps but have already declared they will press for suspension of pay and firings if teachers do not return to their classrooms.

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Infrastructure and Communications  
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¶5. (U) Toncontin International Airport in Tegucigalpa (TGU) remains open. American Airlines has confirmed that due to a significant decrease in bookings since June 28, they have cancelled their second daily TGU-Miami flight until further notice. This flight was a seasonal flight that normally operates in June, July, and August. American does not foresee any further scaling back of flights from TGU. Continental has also cancelled their seasonal second daily flight, EconOff was unable to reach the Continental Representative to obtain details on dates. Delta has no plans to cancel/scale back its daily flights to TGU and San Pedro Sula or its weekly flight to Roatan. San Pedro Sula airport remains open with all flights operating as normal.

¶6. (U) Apart from the police and military control of the Las Manos border crossing (Reftel), all other borders remain open and operating as normal.

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¶7. (U) There are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

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Consular and Embassy Operations  
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¶8. (U) The Embassy is open for normal business on Wednesday, July 29. Barring any changes in the security situation, the Consular Section is open for regular consular services until further notice.

¶9. (U) The Consular Section continues to receive sporadic inquiries from AmCits regarding the political situation. Post circulated a Warden Message Friday afternoon, July 24. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS information on the Embassy website.

¶10. (SBU) The next EAC meeting is TBD.  
LLORENS